



Amendments to the Figures

Please add new Figure 5. Replacement sheets for the renamed drawings are provided, e.g., 1/4 changed to 1/5. The first four drawings are otherwise unaltered.



Remarks

The applicant thanks the examiner for discussing the Office Action in a telephone conversation. As a term of art, "light" must be further defined by its degree of polarization, coherence, collimation, and range of wavelengths. Within this use of "light" as a term of art, the claims assume a proper dependent form.

The examiner adduces five documents of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as related prior art:

US-4,849,340 is a "Reaction system element and method for performing prothrombin time assay."

US-6,099,740 describes "Apparatus and methods for preparing blood or plasma component solutions of known concentration."

US-4,252,536 claims a "Method and system for measuring blood coagulation time."

US-4,777,141 describes an "Instrument for measuring coagulation parameters and method of use."

US-6,084,660 claims a novel way to mark the "Initiation of an analytical measurement in blood."

The examiner also cites non-patent literature:

Iwasaka et al. published a method to study the "Aggregation of blood platelets in static magnetic fields."

Kim et al. describe experiments to quantify the "Determination of blood clot composition in real-time by laser scattering method."

The present invention differs from each of these in several specific ways, and it improves upon them generally by identifying regions of the time course and fitting each region with a mathematical equation.

Wherefore, it is requested that the objections be withdrawn and the application be acted upon favorably. If these amendments and remarks have not removed all objection, it is furthermore requested that the examiner contact the applicant.

Respectfully submitted,


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